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ACTION PLAN

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2003-2008 Strategies

January 1, 2003

State of Montana

Board of Public Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Education Partners and Interested Parties

FROM: Steve Meloy/ Executive Secretary
Montana Board of Public Education

RE: Five-Year Plan

Please find attached the five-year strategic plan, which will guide the Board activities from 2003 to 2008.

At our July 16, 2003 retreat/workshop, the Board of Public Education will develop the performance objectives for our plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003 to June 30 2004.

The Board intends to invite all of our partners and those who express an interest in being included in this process to a meeting in Helena on July 16, 2003.

Montana Board of Public Education

ACTION PLAN

2003-2008 Strategies

December 14, 2002

The Montana Board of Public Education will provide initiative and leadership to marshal the state's resources and focus energies on a single, overriding objective:

To keep the promise a quality education for Montana's children.

The Board, working collaboratively with its partners, will provide a service-oriented, consistent presence in schools and school districts, operate as a unified team, and engage stakeholders in data-driven, effective (or well-conceived), planning and decision-making.

The Board of Public Education will provide leadership to help all Montana public schools reach and keep the promise of quality education to establishing a system which will develop the full education potential of each person.

"Our children will realize their promise, but only if we keep ours."

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Montana Board of Public Education's strategic plan is based on the mission, vision and goals of its own membership in collaboration with the Office of Public Instruction and the Board's partners. The fundamental beliefs supporting the Board's policies, rules, statutes and constitutional provisions are that all children in the state have the capacity to perform at high levels in quality schools and that the schools are responsible and accountable for developing quality outcomes.

In order to insure that the system of education in Montana remains progressive the Board of Public Education has developed these goals to:

- Ensure that all school districts sucessfully implement and meet Montana's standards.
- Ensure that Montana public Schools have a highly qualified workforce
- Create clear pathways for students to become life-long learners
- Work toward the adequate funding of a quality Montana public education system to ensure that students and schools achieve/perform to high academic standards.

VISION

The Board shall strive to promote a coordinated and seamless system of learning from kindergarten through graduate school, including all post-graduate opportunities provided by Montana's system of higher education to endure that all of our citizens benefit from every opportunity an exceptional system of education can provide.

MISSION

The Board of Public Education, in cooperation with the Board of Regents, local school boards and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall carry out its constitutional and statutory responsibility to exercise general supervision over the public school system and other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law.

GOALS STATEMENT

The Board shall implement its objectives by creating and adhering to an aggressive and progressive set of objectives which shall act as benchmarks to enable the Board to meet or exceed its own expectations on behalf of the best system of educational opportunity this state can provide.

PLAN

Goal 1: Ensure that all school districts successfully implement and meet Montana's education standards.

1.1 Provide technical assistance and support school districts in their efforts to meet high education standards.

1.1a Alignment of curriculum to revised Montana content standards.

1.1b Development and implementation of district/school five-year plans.

1.1c Provide regional service delivery.

1.2 Provide technical assistance and support school districts in their efforts to close achievement gaps.

1.3 Provide technical assistance and support school districts in efforts to increase graduation rate.

1.3a Insure accurate reporting of dropout data.

1.3b Identify/disseminate best practices and alternative/innovative methods to prevent dropouts.

1.4 Address the needs of high poverty and other low performing school districts.

1.4a Identify means to improve recruitment and retention of quality staff members in high poverty/low performing schools.

1.4b Work toward better allocation and use of adequate resources to implement local continuous improvement plans.

1.4c Implement quality program of technical assistance and support for low performance schools (LPS).

1.5 Capitalize on E-learning strategies to achieve high education standards.

1.5a Develop a system to provide and deliver quality professional development.

1.5b Deliver expanded course offerings to Montana's students (remedial/regular).

1.5c Increase percentage of students accessing core curriculum and/or advanced placement courses through distance programs.

1.6 Develop joint/coordinated strategies between the Board and the Office of Public Instruction.

1.6a Improve professional development opportunities and coordinate these opportunities for effective utilization.

1.6b Develop improved data collection system and management to "support a culture of results."

1.6c Adopt and implement quality assessment plan for Montana education with ongoing evaluation component.

1.6d Promote and support successful implementation of 20-1-501.

Interested Partners: MTSBA, MEA-MFT, OPI

Goal 2: Ensure that Montana public schools have a highly qualified workforce.

2.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers, administrators, pupil services personnel, and other school staff.

2.1a Identify current and potential areas of personnel shortage.

2.2b Develop programs/systems to alleviate personnel shortages.

2.2c Actively support necessary legislation.

2.2 Coordinate with Higher Education the development of a system that streamlines preparation, certification, and professional development programs for school personnel, including alternate paths for certification.

2.3 Diversify education workforce with particular attention to the recruitment of American Indian teachers.

Potential Partners: Higher Education, OPI, MEA-MFT

Goal 3: Create clear pathways for students to become life-long learners.

3.1 Define needs for life-long learning.

3.2 Articulate a vision to guide the development of pathways for life-long learning in collaboration with higher education, business, and labor.

3.3 Create awareness of and opportunities for students to pursue different pathways to learning.

3.4 Identify strategies and resources for supporting people in transitions.

3.5 Explore the role of the Board in the development and implementation of early childhood policies and programs.

Potential Partners: Higher Education, MACIE, Mark Simonich - Dept. of Commerce

Goal 4: Work toward the adequate funding of a quality Montana public education system to ensure that students and schools achieve/perform to high academic standards.

4.1 Determine the cost of adequately funding a quality education system.

4.2 Lead discussion on the importance and link between education, economic development, and social/civic well-being.

4.3 Ensure effective and efficient use of current and future resources supporting public education.

Potential Partners: All present at the retreat.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

The strategic plan for 2003-2008 was developed through an intensive review process conducted during 2002:

- The strategic ***goals*** were set by the Montana Board of Public Education, in collaboration with specifically identified partners.
- The ***strategies*** and specific objectives to address these goals in the next five years were addressed by the Montana Board of Public Education staff from
  - Cross-agency and partnership design team recommendations
  - Office of Public Instruction
  - Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
  - Review and integration of the work across the offices by partners of the Board of Public Education.
  - Legislators

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special note of appreciation is to the Planning Team who, in Summer 2002, outlined our initial needs and encouraged us in this process:

Planning Team

Representative Mark Noennig
Senator Royal C. Johnson
Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association
Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association
Erik Burke, MEA-MFT
Representative Hal Jacobsen
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Peter Donovan, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council
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Mark Simonich, Department of Commerce
Steve Snezeck, Governor's Office
Derek Duncan, Board of Public Education
Randy Morris. Board of Public Education

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